

CANCELLED

1936

COUNTY OF BANFF.

Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929.

SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
SANITARY INSPECTOR
and
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COUNTY OF BANFF.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1936.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The **Population** of the County of Banff, as ascertained by the Census taken in April, 1931, was 54,835, of which 24,828 pertained to the Landward Area, and 30,007 to the Burghs. The population of each of the Burghs was as follows:—Aberchirder 868, Banff 3,489, Buckie 8,688, Aberlour 1,175, Cullen 1,688, Dufftown 1,454, Findochty 1,675, Keith 4,424, Macduff 3,276, Portknockie 1,619, and Portsoy 1,651. For statistical purposes, the Registrar General estimated the population of the County (including Burghs) in the middle of the year 1936, as 54,159.

The **Births** registered in the County in the year 1936 numbered 973, giving an annual Birth Rate of 18.0 per 1000 of population, as compared with 1038 and 18.8 in the preceding year. During recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of births. In 1926 there were registered 1309 births and in the following years the numbers were 1205, 1208, 1164, 1145, 1108, 1079, 1030, 1040 and 1038. It will thus be seen that the actual number of births registered in 1936 were 336 less than in 1926.

The number of illegitimate births registered in 1936 was 113, or 11.6 per cent. of the total births. In the preceding year the illegitimate births registered were 126, or 12.1 per cent. of total births. In 1926 the Illegitimate Birth Rate was 12.9, and in the following years the rates were 13.4, 14.3, 15.8, 14.8, 13.7, 12.9, 13, 13.2 and 12.1.

The **Deaths** registered in 1936 amounted to 724, giving an annual Death Rate of 13.4 per 1000 of population. In the preceding year the death rate was 13.2 per 1000 of population. In 1926 the death rate was 13.5 and in the following years the rates were 16.6, 13.6, 13.6, 13.5, 13.8, 12.3, 13.6, 11.9 and 13.2.

The **Infantile Mortality Rate** for the County was 70, or in other words, 70 children out of every 1000 born died before completing their first year. In the preceding year the rate was 66. In 1924, the Infantile Mortality Rate in the County was 73, and in succeeding years, 83, 67, 101, 64, 74, 76, 88, 74, 73, 67 and 66.

The cause of death of these infants was as follows.—

Prematurity,	16	Convulsions,	3
Atrophy and debility, ...	6	Cerebro-spinal fever, ..	1
Congenital Malformations, ..	7	Whooping-cough, ...	1
Marasmus,	8	Measles,	1
Pneumonia,	10	Accident,	1
Bronchitis,	4	Other causes,	0
Diarrhoea,	1		

The estimated population of the landward and burghal areas, the births, deaths and infantile mortality rate in each of them is shewn in the following table. Further information on infantile mortality is given in the section in Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Population	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate
Landward ...	24043	468	19.5	302	12.6	55
Aberchirder	914	20	21.9	25	27.4	200
Aberlour	1211	11	9.1	14	11.6	90
Banff	3396	41	12.1	50	13.0	122
Buckie	8582	174	21.4	105	12.2	58
Cullen	1756	25	14.2	21	11.4	40
Dufftown ...	1429	21	14.7	21	14.7	—
Findochty ...	1744	28	16.6	18	10.3	143
Keith	4413	62	14.0	75	17.0	97
Macduff ...	3287	51	15.5	46	14.0	96
Portknockie	1631	32	19.6	20	12.4	—
Portsoy	1753	40	22.8	27	15.4	75
County	54159	973	18.0	724	13.4	70

SUMMARY OF COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

	No. Registered in District.	Transfers.		Corrected No.			Rate per 1000 of Est. Pop. (Both Sexes).
		Out.	In.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	
Births (including Illegitimate)	951	67	89	973	473	500	18·0
„ Illegitimate	101	21	33	113	51	62	*11·6
Marriages	327	—	—	—	—	—	6·0
Deaths—All Causes.	674	99	149	724	351	373	13·4
Tuberculosis (All Forms)	—	—	—	27	17	10	0·50
„ (Respiratory System)	—	—	—	18	12	6	0·33
Principal Epidemic Dis.	—	—	—	38	25	13	0·70
Children aged under One Year	—	—	—	68	40	28	†70

*Rate per 100 Births.

†Rate per 1000 Births.

A. GENERAL SANITATION.

1. Water Supplies—quality and sufficiency.

There are ten Special Water Supply Districts in the County, viz. :—Crovie, Gardenstown, Whitehills, Fordyce, Tomintoul, Portgordon, Newmill, Crannoch, Cornhill, and Milltown of Rothiemay.

In regard to Crovie, Gardenstown, Fordyce, Portgordon and Newmill the water supply is sufficient for the needs of the population.

The Whitehills water supply system has been improved by the erection, at Auds of Boyndie, of a reservoir with a capacity of 60,000 gallons. A new four inch main from this reservoir has been laid to the village which will improve the distribution within the district, but does nothing towards the augmentation of the supply to the village.

The village of Tomintoul has available an ample supply of water at the source, but certain houses and parts of the village suffered considerable inconvenience by failure of the supply at certain times of the day due to the reservoir being of insufficient capacity and at too low a level. During the year a new reservoir of 30,000 gallons capacity was erected and these difficulties are now overcome.

The Crannoch water supply was sufficient for the needs of the district. The consumpt of water in the district has been reduced by one of the farms in the district ceasing to be a registered dairy.

While the Milltown of Rothiemay is a Special Water Supply District, no public works have yet been put down.

The quality of the water in the various Districts is satisfactory, only that in the case of Portgordon and Newmill the water is drawn from springs situated in land under cultivation. Some years ago the Committee dealing with the Newmill supply had a scheme before them to secure that the land on which the springs arise should not be cultivated, but these lands still remain under cultivation.

2. Drainage System—efficiency.

There are seven Special Drainage Districts in the County viz. : Gardenstown, Whitehills, Portgordon, Fordyce, Cornhill, Tomintoul, and the Milltown of Rothiemay. No public works have yet been put down in the Milltown of Rothiemay.

The village of Newmill has no proper drainage system. At a public meeting of the ratepayers in Newmill called to consider the erection of the village into a Special Drainage District it was practically unanimously decided not to proceed with a scheme.

3. Rivers Pollution—presence or absence, nature and sources.

The pollution of the Isla from distillery effluents and the sewage of the Burgh of Keith continues as reported in previous reports.

4. Offensive Trades—action taken.

There are two offensive trades in the County, namely, the Knackery at Douglas Brae, near Keith, and the Knackery at Muirfield, near Fordyce. No complaints have been received regarding these premises.

5. Miscellaneous.

Boyndie Burial Ground. The overcrowded state of this burial ground was reported to the Public Health Committee in March 1932. In view of the conditions found, when the circumstances of the graveyard were being investigated, it is a matter of urgency that new ground should be acquired without delay.

The Village of Sandend, Fordyce.

The Village has a population of 289, with 68 occupied houses.

The water supply to the Village is obtained from various sources. For practically the whole village, the supply is drawn from four wells or water tanks, situated on the rising ground to the south and west of the Village. The householders carry their water in pails from the wells nearest to their houses, and when any particular well goes dry, they go to another. The schoolhouse, the school and two cottar houses of the farm of Broom have a proper gravitation supply, and one house has a private gravitation supply. There are some quite good houses in Sandend that would introduce modern conveniences if a proper gravitation supply were available.

The drainage of the Village is of a very primitive description. Cement channels are laid in the middle of the roadway between the rows of houses. These channels unite at various points and finally discharge their contents into earth channels which cross the public road at three or four places, and thus to the beach. There is one water closet in the schoolhouse and a few dry privies in other houses, but

apart from these there are no sanitary conveniences whatever. It is supposed the women use pails either in their houses or outside sheds, which they empty into the sea, while the men use a part of the shore where the best privacy can be got. There are most offensive smells to be felt in the neighbourhood of that part of the shore giving the best privacy.

There are conditions in the Village that are injurious or dangerous to health, and it is advised that steps be immediately taken to erect the Village into a Special Water and Special Drainage District.

B. HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

1. Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1925 and 1930, and Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931—Proceedings. Include reference to—

(a) Sufficiency of working-class houses.

In the villages of Gardenstown, Whitehills and Portgordon there is a considerable insufficiency of working class dwellings. In these villages it is found that there is a large amount of sub-letting of rooms in houses, so that houses originally built with sufficient accommodation for one family are occupied by two or more families. These conditions were reported on in considerable detail by the Sanitary Inspector in his report for 1933, when he made a house-to-house visitation throughout the Special Districts in the County.

(b) Habitability of existing houses—action taken to deal with defective or uninhabitable houses.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made an inspection of 28 defective dwelling-houses under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations. In respect of these houses, notices were served on the proprietors, in terms of section 16 of the Housing Scotland Act 1930.

Subsequent action was taken as follows:—

23 Demolition Orders.

- 5 Undertaking that the houses would not be used for habitation till improvements carried out.

Up to this date the position as regards the erection of houses under the Housing Acts is as follows:

- 8 Four-Apartment Houses have been erected in Portgordon.

- 4 Three-Apartment houses have been erected in Whitehills.

- 4 Four-Apartment Houses have been erected in Gardenstown.
- 4 Four-Apartment Houses have been erected in Fordyce.
- 4 Four-Apartment Houses have been erected in Newmill.
- 4 Four-Apartment Houses have been erected in Marnoch.
- 2 Four-Apartment houses have been erected in Gamrie.
- 2 Four-Apartment houses have been erected in Tomintoul.
- 2 Four-Apartment Houses are in course of erection in Inverkeithny.
- 2 Four-Apartment Houses are in course of erection in Ordiquhill.
- 2 Four-Apartment Houses are in course of erection in Botriphnie.

Plans have been approved and tenders accepted for the erection of

- 2 Five-Apartment Houses in Inverkeithny.
- 8 Three-Apartment Houses in Gardenstown.
- 4 Four-Apartment Houses in Gardenstown.

From the foregoing it will be seen that 32 houses have been erected and occupied, 16 are in course of erection and 14 are about to be erected.

At the close of the year 119 houses in the landward area of the county were in a condition to be regarded as unfit for habitation.

Under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 8 applications for subsidy were approved, all of which appertained to reconditioning of dwelling-houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935.

A complete survey of the housing in the County, with reference to overcrowding was made towards the end of the year when the following conditions were found :—

- 185 One-Apartment Houses were found to be overcrowded.
- 138 Two-Apartment Houses were found to be overcrowded.
- 102 Three-Apartment Houses were found to be overcrowded.
- 11 Four-Apartment Houses were found to be overcrowded.
- 2 Five-Apartment Houses were found to be overcrowded.

There were surveyed 6217 houses and 438 were found to be overcrowded on a "number of rooms" standard.

During the current year a survey of the housing in the county is being undertaken based on a "size of room" standard.

It is to be noted that, in terms of Section 43 of the Housing (Town Planning) Act, 1919, it is the duty of the Local Authority to make Building Bye-laws under Section 181 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. No Building Bye-laws are in operation in the landward area, and it is very desirable that there should be Bye-laws to regulate the construction of dwelling-houses throughout the County. In 1935 the Public Health Committee had the question of Bye-laws under consideration and had Bye-laws drafted, when in December of that year it was learned that the Department of Health were to issue model Bye-laws for rural areas. Pending the issue of the Department's Bye-laws no further action was then taken, and as the model Bye-laws have not yet been issued no progress has been made.

C. FOOD SUPPLY.

1. Administration of Acts, Orders and Regulations.

- (a) *Bacteriological examination of samples in terms of Sections 20 and 21 of the 1914 Act.*

No samples were taken in terms of Section 20. Regarding samples taken under Section 21, see Veterinary Officer's Report.

- (b) *Milk consigned from other areas.*

See Veterinary Officer's Report.

- (c) *Dirty Milk—measures for detection.*

See Veterinary Officer's Report.

- (d) *Outbreaks of disease attributed to milk.*

Nil.

- (e) *Milk grading—progress.*

See Veterinary Officer's Report.

2. Meat — Administration of Sections 33 and 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

See Veterinary Officer's and Sanitary Inspector's Reports.

3. Miscellaneous — Administration of other Acts, Orders and Regulations, including the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

In the course of the year 121 informal samples of milk were taken for analysis in the Public Health Office. These samples were taken in all parts of the county, and all were found to be genuine with the exception of 14 samples, 5 of which were deficient in fat, 6 in solids-not-fat, and 3 deficient in both fats and solids-not-fat. Those samples found to be deficient were reported to the Police, who took formal samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

In addition to those samples the Police took 37 formal samples of milk for analysis by the Public Analyst, of which 30 were reported to be genuine and 7 were found to be deficient in either fat or solids-not-fat. No legal proceedings were taken in connection with these deficient samples with the exception of one sample that gave an analysis of fat 2.62 per cent. and solids-not-fat 7.52 per cent. A hyre sample showed a milk conform to standard. When the case came into court the vendor pled guilty and was fined five pounds.

Fifty-one samples of other foods and drugs were taken for analysis, namely, butter 7, sausages 7, mince 4, lard 3, margarine 4, salmon 2, jam 2, pepper 3, ice-cream 2, cinnamon 2, honey 1, egg-substitute 1, syrup 1, cheese 1, corned beef 1, aspirin 1, camphorated oil 1, chloride of lime 1, tincture of iodine 2, and lime water 5. All of these samples were found to be genuine, with the exception of four samples of lime water that shewed a deficiency of calcium hydroxide and were below the standard fixed by the British Pharmacopœia. No action was taken in respect of these samples, but warning notices were sent to the vendors.

D. MEDICAL SERVICES.

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

There has been no change in the nature of the services rendered by the District Nursing Associations through their District Nurses to the Public Health Committee and the Education Committee of the County Council.

No new Associations have been formed and the portions of the county unprovided with a skilled nursing service are the burghs of Cullen and Portknockie and the parishes of Alvah, Forglen, Inverkeithny, Deskford and the western portion of Gamrie.

The whole-time Health Visitor in Buckie also visits Portknockie and Cullen for Child Welfare purposes.

Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly in Buckie throughout the year. The average weekly attendance was 51 as compared with 56 in the preceding year. At Banff, Macduff, Aberchirder, Keith and Portsoy clinics are held monthly, when the average attendances were 28, 53, 12, 23, and 15 respectively. In the preceding year the attendances were, respectively, 29, 52, 18, 20 and 16.

One of the most valuable services rendered by the District Nurses is attendance at confinements as Maternity Nurses. During the year they attended 625 confinements compared with 665 in the preceding year, but there were 65 fewer births.

Institutional treatment of children suffering from malnutrition, etc., is secured at the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, the Seafield Cottage Hospital, Buckie, and other local hospitals. Institutional treatment of women suffering from complications of pregnancy or confinement, or whose home circumstances are unsatisfactory, is provided at the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen; the Chalmers Hospital, Banff; the Seafield Cottage Hospital, Buckie, and the Rose Innes Hospital, Aberchirder, when no cases of infectious disease are in hospital.

The Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen, admitted 6 women either for confinement or on account of complications of pregnancy from this County, distributed as follows:—Keith 3, Aberlour 1, Macduff 1 and Cabrach 1.

The Chalmers Hospital, Banff, admitted 46 women, distributed as follows:—Banff burgh 9, Macduff 9, Portsoy 3, Aberchirder 2, Keith 1, Cullen 1, Alvali 4, Boyndie 5, Gamrie 5, Inverkeithny 2, Fordyce 2, and 1 from each of the following:—Rothiemay, Banff landward and Grange.

The Seafield Cottage Hospital admitted 16 women, all of whom resided either in Buckie, Findochty, Portknockie, Cullen or Rathven landward.

It will be noted, that while the institutional facilities available for Banff, Macduff and adjoining areas at the Chalmers Hospital were fully taken advantage of, Keith and practically the whole of the Upper District with no hospital provision conveniently accessible, required hospital accommodation for only seven patients, namely, four in the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen, and three in the Chalmers Hospital, Banff. It may be assumed that, were the facilities available the same advantage would be taken of them as in the Banff-Macduff area. When provision has been made elsewhere for

the infectious diseases meantime treated in the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith, four wards will be released at this hospital for other purposes, such as for ante-natal and maternity patients.

The following are the statistics required to be furnished to the Department of Health by the Medical Officer in his annual report, but it has to be kept in mind, that in regard to the home visitation of infants and mothers, the statistics refer only to those areas in which there are Health Visitors—

1. *Births.*

- (a) Number registered—Legitimate 860; Illegitimate 113.
- (b) Number notified 879.

2. *Infantile Mortality.*

- (a) Number of deaths 68.
- (b) Rate per 1000 births 70.
- (c) Number of deaths classified according to age groups and causes of death.

Age Groups:—

Under 1 week	24
1 week and under 4 weeks	7
4 weeks and under 3 months	10
3 months and under 6 months	12
6 months and under 12 months	15

Causes of death:—

Prematurity	16	Convulsions	3
Atrophy and debility	6	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1
Congenital malformations	7	Whooping cough	1
Marasmus	8	Measles	1
Pneumonia	10	Accident	1
Bronchitis	4	Other causes	9
Diarrhoea	1		

3. *Maternal Mortality.*

- (a) Number of deaths resulting from miscarriage or child birth 2.
- (b) Number of deaths resulting from puerperal sepsis 3.

4. *Report under Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915.*

Two intimations of "Intention to practise," both from Cullen, were received.

5. Home Visitation.

	*1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
(1) Infants—																				
Number Visited, -	17	43	26	44	60	9	16	53	44	24	55	40	17	24	42	32	35	38	41	—
Total Visits, -	224	382	256	471	—	56	132	895	430	210	471	423	205	318	359	600	512	530	407	3698

(2) Children (1-5)—																				
Number Visited, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Visits, -	169	404	162	414	—	39	135	1478	276	303	659	438	214	240	321	469	452	486	384	914

(3) Expectant Mothers—																				
Number Visited, -	13	46	23	42	83	5	9	36	23	20	59	35	13	21	24	27	35	32	29	42
Total Visits, -	45	145	70	110	202	26	23	156	89	42	148	139	85	53	56	80	244	100	162	118

(4) Number of Confinements attended	17	39	22	43	83	7	14	26	40	19	57	45	14	19	34	31	35	33	42	—
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*1 Aberlour Association.

- 2 Banff.
- 3 Boharm.
- 4 Boyndie and Banff (Landward).
- 5 Buckie.
- 6 Cabraich.
- 7 Cairnie and Grango.
- 8 Findochty and Rathven (Eastern).
- 9 Gardinstown and East Gamrie.
- 10 Inveravon and Glenlivet.

- 11 Keith Burgh.
- 12 Keith (Landward) and Botriphnie.
- 13 Kirkmichael and Tomintoul.
- 14 Knock, Ordignhill, and Rothiemay.
- 15 Marnoch.
- 16 Mortlach.
- 17 Portgordon and Rathven (Western).
- 18 Portsoy and Fordyce.
- 19 Macduff.
- 20 Health Visitor, Buckie, Portknockie and Cullen.

7. *Pre-Natal Consultations.* Nil.

8. *Post-Natal and other Consultations.* Nil.

9. *Child Welfare Consultations.*

A child welfare clinic is held weekly in Buckie and monthly in Banff, Macduff, Aberchirder, Portsoy, and Keith.

10. *Special Treatment Centres.*

(1) Teeth. (2) Eyes. (3) Other ailments. (4) Ultra violet light clinics. Nil.

11. *Day Nurseries. Kindergartens and Play Centres.* Nil.

12. *Food and Milk.*

Number of children in respect of whom applications were made, 8.

Number certified on medical grounds, Nil.

Number certified as necessitous, 8.

13. *Measles.*

Number of cases notified, Nil. Number of deaths, 1.

14. *Whooping Cough.*

Number of cases notified, Nil. Number of deaths, 1.

15. *Ophthalmic Neonatorum.*—

See infectious disease section.

16. *Maternity Hospitals.*

1. Pre-natal cases.

(a) Number of cases treated 23.

(b) Statement of conditions found.

Hyperemesis 7

Haemorrhage 3

Pyelitis 4

Threatened abortion 2

Albuminuria 2

Other conditions 5

2. Number admitted on account of home conditions 22.

3. Number admitted for complicated labour 11.

4. Number admitted for complications following confinement 8.

The above patients were treated either in the Chalmers Hospital, the Seafield Cottage Hospital, or the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen.

17. *Homes for Unmarried Mothers before and after Confinement.* Nil.
18. *Hospitals for Sick Children.*
Twenty-six children were treated either in the Chalmers Hospital or the Seafeld Cottage Hospital.
19. *Convalescent Homes.* Nil.
20. *Boarding-out.* Nil.
21. *Home Helps.* Nil.
22. *Educational.*

Short "talks" on health matters were given to the mothers attending the Child Welfare Clinics at Buckie, Banff, Macduff, Portsoy, Aberchirder and Keith.

2. School Children—medical inspection, supervision and treatment.

See School Medical Officer's Report.

3. **Infectious diseases, notifiable and non-notifiable—incidence—any special action to deal with influenza, pneumonia, measles, whooping cough, encephalitis lethargica, infective jaundice, psittacosis. Refer to any arrangements for supply of diphtheria antitoxin.**

Scarlet Fever.

In recent years scarlet fever has been very prevalent, but in 1936 there was an excessive prevalence, there being notified 681 cases as compared with 334 in 1935 and 280 in 1934. Practically every burgh and parish was affected, though the Burgh of Keith and surrounding parishes suffered most severely. In Keith there were two epidemics, the first of which occurred in the Spring and completely ceased on closure of all the schools for a few weeks. In the Autumn the disease again appeared in epidemic form, and continued for some months. Children from surrounding parishes attending schools in Keith brought the disease to their homes and established centres of infection in these parishes. There was no common source of infection in operation. While there was no reason to suspect milk as a source of infection several dairies were visited and inspected, but no trace of scarlet fever found. The spread of the disease was believed to be due entirely to the mildness of the illness generally, giving rise to unrecognised cases which were discovered in many cases only after a more definite case occurred in the family. A

feature of the epidemic was the large number of sore throats accompanied by no scarlet fever rash but capable of transmitting typical scarlet fever to others. There are few parishes in the County that have not had an outbreak of scarlet fever in recent years, the last to suffer being the Upper Cabrach, and the only burgh that has not had many cases is Findochty. The hospitals in the County receiving infectious diseases were taxed to their utmost capacity. Several patients in the Burgh of Keith, who in normal conditions are isolated in the Turner Memorial Hospital, were sent to the Campbell Hospital, Portsoy. By arrangement and co-operation of the various hospitals it was possible to find accommodation for all cases requiring accommodation. Scarlet fever was registered as the cause of death of five persons, so that the fatality rate based on the 681 notification was only .73 per cent.

Diphtheria.

Notifications of diphtheria showed a considerable increase on the preceding year, there being notified 113 cases as compared with 73 in 1935. While there were spasmodic cases in practically every area of the County there was no epidemic prevalence with the exception of a small outbreak in Glenlivet and an extensive outbreak in Buckie, which accounted for more than one-half of all cases notified. The outbreak in Glenlivet occurred among the pupils of Glenlivet School. The first case to arouse suspicion that the school was infected was that of a teacher in the school who developed diphtheria. Swabbing of noses and throats of the school children showed that the disease was well established in the district before the first notification was received. The epidemic in Buckie, consisting of 66 cases, commenced in the month of October when the first cases were notified in Lady Cathcart School, and in one class in the public school. Investigations as to the probable source were immediately instituted when cases of nasal diphtheria were discovered in two classes in Lady Cathcart School, and in one class in the Public School. The disease rapidly spread in these infected classes, in others of their families at home, and in other classes. In tracing the source of infection in infected families it was a common experience to find nasal diphtheria in related families. There appeared to be a far greater prevalence of nasal diphtheria than throat diphtheria, and to this cause the epidemic was due, namely, an unusual prevalence of nasal diphtheria regarded as common colds, and showing no throat symptoms of diphtheria. With such a widespread infection a prolonged prevalence of the disease was to be expected, and during the current year occasional cases are still being notified.

Diphtheria was the registered cause of five deaths.

Enteric Fever.

There was only one case of enteric fever notified throughout the County, namely, a case in Buckie. The patient had been ill for some time before notification, and the source of infection was not ascertained. The case proved fatal.

Erysipelas.

Notifications 26, Deaths 3. Three of the patients were treated in the Campbell Hospital. Erysipelas was the cause of three deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever.

There were 9 notifications of puerperal pyrexia and 1 notification of puerperal fever. One case of puerperal pyrexia was treated in the Chalmers Hospital, and one case of puerperal fever from Inverkeithny was treated in the City Hospital, Aberdeen. There were 3 deaths from puerperal sepsis and 2 deaths from other puerperal causes.

Influenzal Pneumonia and Pneumonia.

Notifications 80, Deaths 52. This is a considerable increase on the preceding year, when there were 33 deaths. Twenty-four patients suffering from pneumonia were treated in hospital.

Dysentery.

Notifications 8, Deaths 0. There was no epidemic of this disease in any locality.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Only two cases of ophthalmia were notified. Both cases were treated at home and made good recoveries with no impairment of vision.

Acute Polio-Myelitis.

No cases of this disease were notified.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

One case was notified, was treated in the City Hospital, Aberdeen, and proved fatal.

Encephalitis-lethargica.

One case was notified in an adult in Aberlour. The patient died of the disease.

Measles.

One death was registered from this disease, namely, a death in Keith.

Whooping Cough.

One death was registered from this disease, namely, the death of an infant in Portsoy.

Supplies of diphtheria antitoxin for the use of medical practitioners are stocked in Banff, Portsoy, Buckie, Aberchirder, Keith, and Dufftown.

The probationer nurses in the two infectious diseases hospitals are artificially immunised against diphtheria and scarlet fever on taking up duty. There is no general application of artificial immunisation against these diseases.

The following table shews the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the two landward areas and the Burghs during 1936 :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Puerperal Fever.	Pneumonia.	I. Pneumonia.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Encephalitis-lethargica.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
Banff District - 165	12	...	1	1	1	21	...	...	1	...	...	...
Keith District - 162	18	...	10	2	...	10	1	7	...	...	...	...
Banff - - 14	1	...	1	2	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Macduff - - 31	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsoy - - 34	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Callen - - 19	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portknockie - 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Findochty - 6	2	...	1	3	...	4	..	...	...	...	...	...
Buckie - - 62	66	1	4	...	...	20	...	..	...	...	...	...
Aberchirder - 15	6	...	7	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...
Keith - - 117	1	...	4	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	...
Dufftown - 28	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aberlour - 14	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	..	1	1	1
Total -	681	113	1	26	9	1	78	2	8	2	1	1

4. Tuberculosis—Prevention and Treatment.

During 1936 there was received a total of 16 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, which is the lowest number of cases yet reported in any year. In the preceding year 25 notifications were received, and in four immediately preceding quinquennial periods the average number of cases reported were 26, 33.4, 44.2 and 68.2.

The distribution of the patients notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in the landward area and the various burghs in the county is shewn in the following table :—

	1936	Average for period 1931-1935.	Average for period 1926-1930.	Average for period 1921-1925.	Average for period 1916-1920.
Banff District ...	4	6.6	8.8	10.3	15.8
Keith District ...	1	3.8	7.2	7.6	9.8
Aberchirder	—	1.0	0.6	2.3	2.8
Aberlour	—	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.6
Banff	—	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Buckie	3	3.4	3.2	8.2	9.8
Cullen	1	0.6	0.6	1.0	2.0
Dufftown	—	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.6
Findochty	4	1.0	1.6	1.4	3.4
Keith	3	4.0	3.4	3.0	6.2
Maeduff	—	1.2	1.4	3.0	6.0
Portknockie	—	1.0	1.0	1.4	3.8
Portsoy	—	0.8	1.2	1.0	2.4
County	16	26	33.4	44.2	68.2

According to age, the notified cases and deaths in 1936 were distributed as follows :—

	Notified Cases.	Deaths.
Under 1 year	—	1
1 year and under 5 years	—	—
5 years and under 15 years ...	1	—
15 years and under 25 years ...	8	4
25 years and under 45 years ...	5	7
45 years and under 65 years ...	1	3
65 years and upwards	1	3

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis was 18, compared with 24 in the preceding year, 16 in 1934, 15 in 1933, 28 in 1932, and 21 in 1931. The annual average number of deaths in the period 1916-1920 was 45, 1921-1925, 34, and in the period 1926-1930, 20.

In addition to these cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 51 cases of other forms of tuberculosis were notified, including superficial glands, 36; peritoneum, 3; bowel, 1; joints, 6; spine, 2; and meninges, 3. This number is greater than that of the preceding year when 20 cases only were reported.

The number of deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis was 9 compared with 13 in the preceding year, 5 in 1934, 13 in 1933, 10 in 1932, and 8, 14, 13, 20, 12, 16, and 31 in the immediately preceding years.

Institutional Treatment. — The institutional treatment for patients suffering from tuberculosis consists of 10 beds in a special pavilion at the Chalmers Hospital for pulmonary tuberculosis and such beds as may be required for non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the main building of the hospital. Beds are also available at the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith, when not required for the isolation of infectious diseases in the burgh of Keith. The trustees of the Rose-Innes Hospital, Aberchirder, have erected two shelters in the grounds of the hospital, which during the summer months are very suitable for either pulmonary or non-pulmonary cases. Cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis are received at the Seafeld Cottage Hospital, Buckie.

Patients requiring some form of special treatment are admitted to Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen. Patients desiring to be treated in institutions other than those provided in this county are admitted to Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, the Grampian Sanatorium, Kingussie, and Tor-na-Dee Sanatorium, near Aberdeen, the County Council making a contribution towards the cost of their treatment equal to the payment made to institutions in this county.

The following table shows the number of cases which received treatment under the Tuberculosis Scheme in Sanatoria or other Institutions during the year:—

			In Institutions on January 1.	Admitted during the year.	Discharged during the year.	Died in the Institutions.	In Institutions on December 31.		
Pulmonary	Adults	{ Males	4	11	4	4	7		
		{ Females	5	8	5	3	5		
	Children	{ Males	1	...	1	...	...
		{ Females	...	1	...	...	1
Non-Pulmonary	Adults	{ Males	3	10	10	1	2		
		{ Females	...	5	5	...	...
	Children	{ Males	5	7	11	...	1		
		{ Females	...	10	9	1	...		
TOTAL			18	52	45	9	16

The Institutions in which these patients were treated were the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, 33; Seafeld Cottage Hospital, Buckie, 10; Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith, 4; and Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, 5.

Domiciliary Treatment.—Seventeen patients were in receipt of special benefits under the Tuberculosis Scheme. These included the provision of foods, such as milk, beef and eggs.

Six patients occupied shelters erected at their own homes and provided by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Order.—In terms of this order there were dealt with 130 animals, of which 17 suffered from tuberculosis of the udder. In the preceding eleven years the numbers dealt with were respectively: 99 with 22 udders affected; 47 with 11 udders affected; 47 with 8 udders affected; 72 with 6 udders affected; 89 with 12 udders affected; 86 with 2 udders affected; 100 with 4 udders affected; 89 with 4 udders affected; 76 with 1 udder affected; 57 with 11 udders affected; and 17 with 2 udders affected.

5. Venereal Diseases—prevention and treatment.

For the purpose of **The Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations (Scotland), 1916**, this County continues to be one of the partners in the joint scheme for the City of Aberdeen and the North-Eastern Counties. Out-patient clinics are held practically daily at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. In addition to these facilities for treatment, out-patient clinics are held twice weekly at the Chalmers Hospital, Banff. Monthly statements are received from these two institutions giving particulars of the number of new patients who have attended for treatment, and the number of attendances of both new and old patients. The following table gives the particulars for the year in regard to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and the Chalmers Hospital, Banff:—

Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

	Total number of new cases.	In-Patients admitted.	Attendance at V.D. Clinics.	Number of Doses of Special Drugs supplied to Medical Practitioners.	Laboratory Examinations for Banffshire cases.
January	2	—	7	41	13
February	—	—	30	—	35
March	4	—	16	—	30
April	4	1	16	10	23
May	1	—	17	34	36
June	—	—	10	10	36
July	4	1	13	—	28
August	1	—	8	10	20
September	3	—	8	—	23
October	2	—	8	10	22
November ...	—	—	5	15	31
December	1	—	7	15	19

Chalmers Hospital, Banff.

	Total number of new cases.	In-Patients admitted.	Attendance at V.D. Clinics.	Number of Doses of Special Drugs supplied to Medical Practitioners.	Laboratory Examinations for Banffshire cases.
January	—	—	46	—	—
February	1	—	29	—	—
March	1	—	60	—	—
April	1	—	59	—	—
May	—	—	44	—	—
June	3	1	47	—	—
July	—	—	35	—	—
August	2	—	32	—	—
September	2	1	32	—	—
October	2	1	15	—	—
November	3	—	58	—	—
December	1	—	87	—	—

From the above tables it will be seen that 22 new cases attended at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. In the preceding 14 years the numbers were respectively 16, 13, 18, 19, 15, 3, 9, 16, 18, 10, 13, 10, 11 and 13.

At the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, the number of new cases in 1936 was 16. In the preceding 12 years the numbers were respectively 24, 23, 19, 25, 23, 12, 14, 17, 24, 19, 20 and 18.

As there is no system of notification in operation in connection with the venereal diseases there is no proper information available as to the actual incidence of these diseases. Some authorities have asked for a system of notification for their areas but so far powers have not been given them, it being argued that persons suffering from these diseases would avoid seeking treatment if it involved having their cases reported. There are circumstances in which more powers are required. Information is sometimes obtained from patients that goes to show the existence of an active source of infection in a district and spreading the disease.

6. Neurological and psychiatric service (for mental disability in the pre-certification stages.)

No arrangements for consultations or neurological clinics have yet been made.

7. Sick Poor—Arrangements for medical care and nursing.

Medical attendance on the sick poor in their own homes is provided by the Parish Medical Officers as formerly. Where institutional treatment is found to be necessary, it is provided at the Seafeld Cottage Hospital, Buckie, the local hospitals within the County, and at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. The County Council subscribes to the funds of the Local District Nursing Associations to secure the services of their nurses for attendance on the sick poor.

8. Hospital and Ambulance facilities.

There are four hospitals in the County owned and administered by the County Council, namely, the Campbell Hospital, Portsoy; the Isolation Hospital, Dufftown; the Seafeld Cottage Hospital, Buckie; and the Cholera Hospital, Banff.

The proposed extensions at the Campbell Hospital have not yet been proceeded with, as it has not been possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Town Council of Portsoy to secure a sufficient water supply. The proposed extensions are outwith the burgh and accordingly there is no obligation on the Town Council to provide a supply for this part of the institution. The existing supply to the institution within the burgh is not at all times satisfactory and unless the Town Council take steps to augment this supply, the hospital committee themselves must find an independent supply for the proposed extension. Meantime this matter is being dealt with.

The Seafield Cottage Hospital, Buckie, is urgently requiring proper laundry accommodation, as the present laundry is quite unsuitable and insufficient for the requirements of the institution.

The Cholera Hospital, Banff, has not been used as a hospital for many years. Meantime it is occupied as a dwelling-house. An occasion may arise when this hospital may require to be occupied and it could be occupied only at great inconvenience on account of there being no hot water system for baths. This matter should again be considered by the Hospitals Committee.

The question of the nursing services at these hospitals has frequently been under consideration, and representation has been made to the Department of Health to have these services put on a more satisfactory basis. A Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland to inquire into the training and system of registration of nurses in Scotland issued a report, in March, 1936, when it was hoped that arrangements would be made to improve the status and conditions of service of nurses in the smaller hospitals. At this date no action has been taken. In the interest of the nursing services of the smaller hospitals it is a matter of some urgency that the conditions of service, etc., should be put on a more satisfactory basis.

Motor ambulances are stationed at the Campbell Hospital, Portsoy, and the Isolation Hospital, Dufftown, for the transport of patients suffering from infectious diseases to these hospitals, and to the Rose Innes Hospital, Aberchirder, and the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith.

During the current year an 18 horse power Austin Ambulance has been purchased for the Campbell Hospital and the old ambulance of the Campbell Hospital is being transferred to Buckie to be used for the transport of sick persons to the Seafield Cottage Hospital.

Stationed at the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, is a motor ambulance, the property of the County Ambulance Committee. This ambulance is available for the transport of patients suffering from disease or accident in any part of the county but it is mainly used for the transport of patients to the Chalmers Hospital.

F. WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are in the County 118 workshops, of which 12 are retail bakehouses. The Sanitary Inspector made 59 inspections of these premises, and sent written notices in respect of 4 defects, which were remedied.

ALEX. LEDINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Banff, April 1937.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death in the County of Banff during 1936.

1. Typhoid Fever	1
2. Measles	8
3. Scarlet Fever	5
4. Whooping Cough	2
5. Diphtheria	5
6. Influenza	8
7. Cerebro Spinal Fever	2
8. Other Epidemic Diseases	7
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	18
10. Other Tubercular Diseases	9
11. Other Infectious Diseases	2
12. Cancer	92
13. Diabetes	8
14. Other General Diseases	17
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	53
16. Other Diseases of Nervous System	23
17. Heart Disease	145
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	23
19. Bronchitis	30
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	52
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	16
22. Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	12
23. Diarrhoea	5
24. Appendicitis	4
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	1
26. Other Diseases of Liver	7
27. Other Digestive Diseases	17
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	18
29. Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	10
30. Puerperal Sepsis	5
31. Other Puerperal Causes	2
32. Diseases of Skin and Locomotor System	6
33. Congen. Debil., Prem. Birth, &c.	36
34. Old Age	33
35. Suicide	4
36. Other violence	18
37. Causes ill-defined or unknown	7
<hr/>	
All causes	721

APPENDIX II.

HOSPITALS.

Reports by Medical Officers.

SEAFIELD COTTAGE HOSPITAL, BUCKIE.

Accommodation.—There is accommodation for 23 adults and 6 children. During the year the average number of beds occupied was 26.38. The highest number occupied was 36 on 31/5/36, the lowest 19 on 21/8/36. The average duration of stay of patients was 48.43 days. These figures do not take into account cases coming in for operation, e.g., removal of Tonsils, Teeth, &c., and staying less than a day.

Classification of Cases—

During the year 200 cases were dealt with, and may be classified as follows:—

Diseases of the Nervous System	10
Chorea	2
Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels	12
Pernicious Anæmia	3
Other Anæmias	2
Diseases of the Nose and Throat	3
Diseases of Respiratory System	11
Pneumonia	6
Disease of Gastro Intestinal Tract	5
Genito-Urinary	2
Diseases of the Skin	6
Diseases of Bones	3
Disease of Joints and Bursae	7
Diseases of Glands	3
Malnutrition	7
Fractures and other Injuries	4
Cancers	9
Diabetes	1
Tuberculosis Abdominal	2
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1
Tuberculosis of Glands	3
Septic conditions and Abscesses	7
Burns and Scalds	4
Senility	4
Actinomycosis	1
Injuries and Wounds	5
Pregnancy	20
Gynaecological Cases	3
No disease	54

In addition there were treated by operation 89 cases which were less than one day in Hospital.

Visitation by Medical Officers.—The Hospital was visited 842 times during the year, 360 of these being made on behalf of the Junior Medical Officers, and 482 on behalf of the Senior Medical Officer.

Water Supply.—The supply is ample, and appliances are provided to make it available in case of fire.

Sanitary Arrangements. — These are sufficient and in good order.

Laundry Accommodation.—As was pointed out in last year's report this is insufficient and should be extended.

Nursing Arrangements.—The Nursing Staff now consists of the Matron, 1 Staff Nurse, 1 Assistant Nurse, and 2 Probationers. There is not sufficient bedroom accommodation for the Staff.

Dietary.—The dietary is liberal, and of a high standard.

Bathing.—If certified fit, patients are bathed on admission; once weekly as routine, and oftener if necessary.

Medicine and Medical Appliances.—These were supplied in quantity and quality as ordered. A considerable stock of drugs, &c., is now carried at the Hospital.

Equipment.—The equipment has been sufficient and suitable for the work done at the Hospital and has been supplemented and replaced as required.

Heating and Ventilation and Lighting.—The whole of the Hospital is lighted by Electricity. While the Central Heating System continues to give satisfaction, alternative and/or supplementary heating by Electricity has been provided in the Operating Theatre, Maternity Ward and Nurses' Dining-Room. Similar provision should be made in the Children's Ward. The Wards are kept comfortably warmed and well ventilated.

Arrangements for Tuberculous, Infectious, Verminous, and Venereal Cases.—Arrangements as in former Reports.

Diphtheria.—An epidemic of Diphtheria occurred in Buckie during the last quarter of the year.

A case occurred in the Hospital on 12th November, and 2 cases on 24th December. These were removed to Campbell Hospital, Portsoy. On 27th December, four other cases were detected and owing to lack of accommodation at Portsoy they were isolated at the Hospital. Special Nurses were provided to nurse them and the Hospital was put in quarantine.

Operations.—There is an Operating Theatre equipped to deal with the commoner operations. Cases requiring major operations are generally sent to Banff or Aberdeen.

During the year the following operations were performed :—

Under general anaesthesia—

Removal of Tonsils and Adenoids	55
Carious Teeth	7
T.B. Glands	16
Necrosis of Bone	4
Excision of Bursa	1
Ischio Rectal Fistula	2
Fractures and Lacerations	2
Cellulitis and Abscesses, various	9
Circumcisions	3
Obstetrical	7
Curettage	1
Uterine Fibroid—removal of	1
	— 108

Under local anaesthesia—

Nasal Polypus removed	1
Sebaceous Cyst removed	1
Abscess	3
Lacerated Wounds	6
Rodent Ulcer—excision of	1
	— 12
	120

Obstetric Cases.—There were 11 births at the Hospital during the year.

Deaths.—During the year 21 deaths occurred at the Hospital. Heart Disease accounted for 5; Carcinoma for 8; while Scalds, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Cerebral Thrombosis, Cerebral Abscess, Marasmus, Gastroenteritis, Gastric Ulcer and Uraemia each accounted for 1 death.

GEORGE HENDRY, M.B., Ch.B.,
Senior Medical Officer.

CAMPBELL HOSPITAL, PORTSOY.

The number of patients treated during the year 1936 was as follows:—

	In Hospital 1/1/36.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital 31/12/36.
Scarlet Fever	46	266	292	2	18
Diphtheria	2	84	55	3	28
Erysipelas	—	2	2	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Total	48	352	349	5	46

During most of the year the hospital accommodation was taxed to its utmost capacity.

The work of the Matron and Nursing Staff was excellent during an abnormally busy year.

JOHN W. MACRAE, *Medical Officer.*

THE BANFFSHIRE UPPER DISTRICT ISOLATION HOSPITAL, DUFFTOWN.

Number of Patients admitted to above Hospital from
1st January 1936 till 31st December 1936—

Total No.	147
Scarlet Fever	138
Diphtheria	9

There was one death during the year.

23 Patients remained in Hospital at 31st December 1936.

C. M. STEPHEN, *Medical Officer.*

APPENDIX III.

CITY HOSPITAL, ABERDEEN.

LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS FOR BANFFSHIRE.

January—December 1936.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Grand Total.
DIPHTHERIA—				
Throat, nose and ear swabs	236	1399	1635	1635
TUBERCULOSIS—				
Sputum	36	172	208	
Pus	0	19	19	
Faeces	0	2	2	
Urines	1	18	19	
Cerebro-spinal fluids	2	1	3	
Pleural fluids	0	3	3	
Scraping from lumbar region	0	1	1	
			—	255
TYPHOID FEVER—				
Blood cultures	0	23	23	
Widals	1	29	30	
Faeces	0	10	10	
Waters	0	1	1	
			—	64
PARATYPHOID FEVER A. B. and C.—				
Widals	0	90	90	
Faeces	0	1	1	
Urines	1	0	1	
			—	92
UNDULANT FEVER—				
Blood agglutinations	9	23	32	32
BACILLARY DYSENTERY—				
Faeces	4	37	41	41
VENEREAL DISEASES—				
Wassermann Reactions	58	135	193	
Khan Tests	57	133	190	
Gonococcal smears	26	110	136	
Gonococcal complement fixation tests	3	4	7	
			—	526
BIOCHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS—				
Blood sugars	—	—	14	
Blood ureas	—	—	8	
Urine sugars	—	—	3	
Urine ureas	—	—	2	
Faeces for blood	—	—	27	
			—	54

GENERAL EXAMINATIONS—

Blood cultures	—	—	9
Blood counts	—	—	55
Differential cell counts	—	—	54
Cerebro-spinal fluids (not for tubercle bacilli)	—	—	6
Pleural fluids (not for tubercle bacilli)	—	—	1
Vaccines	—	—	35
Histological specimens	—	—	9
Animal specimens	—	—	5
Sputum for <i>B. pertussis</i>	—	—	26
Sputum for other organisms	—	—	37
Throat, nose and ear swabs for organisms	—	—	297
Eye swabs for organisms ...	—	—	5
Pus and fluids for organisms	—	—	66
Faeces for organisms	—	—	3
Urines: pathological examina- tion	—	—	109
„ bacteriological exam- ination	—	—	101
Waters: bacteriological exam- ination	—	—	18
„ chemical examination	—	—	18
Milks: bacterial count	—	—	8
„ organisms	—	—	8
„ tubercle bacilli (micro- scopic examination only)	—	—	5
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	1
Miscellaneous	—	—	1

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ANIMAL INOCULATION—

Guinea pigs inoculated with milk deposit for tubercle bacilli	37
Guinea pigs inoculated with urine for tubercle bacilli	4
Guinea pigs inoculated with pus for tubercle bacilli	9
Guinea pigs inoculated with pleural fluid for tubercle bacilli	4
Guinea pigs inoculated with milk deposit for <i>Br. abortus</i>	11

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COUNTY OF BANFF.

REPORT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1936.

During the year the Sanitary condition of the County has been good, and systematic inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector in all villages and hamlets in order to ascertain the existence of nuisances requiring to be dealt with.

The following summaries indicate sanitary work undertaken in the County during the year :—

1. Insanitary houses, including men's sleeping apartments at farms dealt with, - - -	38	...
Remedied more or less, - - - -	...	6
2. Unsatisfactory water supplies dealt with, -	4	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	4
3. Defective drains, traps, W.Cs., &c., dealt with, -	7	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	7
4. Dirty houses, premises, including ashpit privies, &c., dealt with, - - - -	14	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	12
5. Dirty cowsheds, milk stores and cows, etc., (milk premises), dealt with, - - -	26	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	26
6. Defective walls, floors, drainage, etc., of cowsheds and milk stores (milk premises), dealt with, -	26	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	22
7. Dirty cowsheds, milk stores and cows (butter and cheese premises), dealt with, - - -	43	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	40
8. Defective, or want of, ashpits and privies dealt with, -	4	..
Remedied, - - - - -	...	2
9. Middens and foul accumulations dealt with, -	5	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	4
10. Sundries—Choked drains, overcrowding, means of ventilation, &c., dealt with, - - -	12	...
Remedied, - - - - -	...	9
11. Workshops and workplaces dealt with, - - -	4	..
Remedied, - - - - -	...	3
Totals, - - -	183	135

Housing.—During the year the Sanitary Inspector inspected 48 dwelling-houses under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations (Scotland) 1928. 28 were found to be

in a state unfit for human habitation. Notices were served under Section (16) (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1930 on the owners of these defective houses, when 23 demolition orders were made by the Local Authority. In 5 instances an undertaking was given that the house will not be used for human habitation.

During the year four four-apartment houses were erected in Portgordon, four four-apartment houses in Fordyce village, four four-apartment houses in Newmill, four four-apartment houses in the Parish of Marnoch, two four-apartment houses in Tomintoul, two four-apartment houses in the Parish of Gamrie, and there are in the course of erection two four-apartment houses in the Parish of Inverkeithny, two four-apartment houses in the Parish of Botriphnie, and two four-apartment houses in the Parish of Ordiquhill. Plans have been prepared and tenders have been provisionally accepted for the erection of four four-apartment and eight three-apartment houses in Gardenstown and two five-apartment houses in the Parish of Inverkeithny.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.—During the year eight applications for grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, for the reconditioning of dwelling-houses were approved by the County Council and Certificate "A" granted to the following :—

Wellside, Glen of Newmill, Keith.
7 Knock Street, Whitehills.
Upper Breach, Fordyce.
Brae of Crombie, Marnoch.
Blairstone Cottage, Rathven.
Broomhill Croft, Botriphnie.
97 Main Street, Tomintoul.
West Lodge, Rothiemay.

The following works were completed during the year and Certificate "B" granted :—

The reconditioning of dwelling-houses at :—

32 Main Street, Newmill.
Dens of Mayen, Marnoch.
Gordonstown Croft, Ordiquhill.
Auchintoul Cottage, Marnoch.
Cottage, Cromney Castle, Marnoch.
Alehouseburn (Miller's House), Boyndie.
Scatterty Cottage, Ordiquhill.
7 Knock Street, Whitehills.
Blairstone Cottage, Rathven.
Cottar House, Todhills, Banff.
Ella Cottage, Todhills, Banff.

The provision of a water supply, drainage, &c., at :—

Three crofts and two dwelling-houses at Longmanhill, Gamrie.

Since the scheme under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, came into operation, 144 applications have been granted, the total amount of grant approved being £14,697.

118 dwelling-houses have been reconditioned and 55 dwelling-houses provided with water supplies, drainage, and minor improvements.

In the 1935 Report details were given as to the result of a survey of all dwelling-houses within the County under a rental of £45, showing that 438 dwelling-houses were overcrowded in accordance with the "number of apartments" standard, viz. :—

- 185 one-apartment houses.
- 138 two-apartment houses.
- 102 three-apartment houses.
- 11 four-apartment houses.
- 2 five-apartment houses.

A survey in accordance with the "measurement of apartments" standard has yet to be overtaken, and this survey will be carried out during 1937.

As far as is known only two dwelling-houses were erected in the rural area of the County without the aid of a subsidy during 1936.

A statement of proceedings by the Sanitary Inspector as Designating Officer under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1928, the Housing, Town Planning, etc. (Scotland) Act, 1919, the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, and the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930.—See Appendix.

Water Supplies.—There are ten Special Water Supply Districts in the County, namely—Crovie and Gardenstown, in the Parish of Gamrie; Whitehills, in the Parish of Boyn-die; Fordyce, in the Parish of Fordyce; Portgordon, in the Parish of Rathven; Tomintoul, in the Parish of Kirkmichael; Newmill, in the Parish of Keith; Crannoch, in the Parish of Grange; Cornhill, in the Parish of Ordiquhill; and Milltown, in the Parish of Rothiemay.

With the exception of Cornhill and Crannoch there was a plentiful supply of water in the Special Districts during the year.

The Aberchirder District Council are meantime considering the augmentation of the Cornhill supply from springs in the neighbourhood of Cornhill. At Crannoch a shortage was again experienced during the summer months due to a large extent to a dairy farmer using the supply for

dairying purposes. This farmer has now given up dairying and it is expected that there will be a sufficient supply for the Special District during the current year. For the past few years complaints were made by the two hotelkeepers at Tomintoul regarding a shortage of water in the afternoons during the summer, which was due to insufficient storage and also that the storage cistern was situated at too low a level to give a constant supply to these hotels, whose storage cisterns are situated in the roofs of the buildings. During 1936 a new reservoir of 30,000 gallons capacity was constructed at a higher level, which now allows for a constant supply to every house in the village. In regard to Milltown, Rothiemay, which was formed into a Special Water Supply District in 1935, prospecting for an additional supply was carried out at the Inchcorsie Hill, when approximately 8400 additional gallons per 24 hours was found, but further than prospecting for additional water no works have yet been carried out. Meantime the Keith District Council are negotiating with the Superior regarding the augmentation, and it is expected that the works will be proceeded with at an early date.

At Newmill three new valves were fitted replacing two defective valves at the reservoir and one at the lower end of Main Street.

The various systems have been maintained in good order. Reservoirs have been cleaned out and the mains scoured in each Special District.

In the rural area only 4 complaints were received regarding defective water supplies. These were investigated and dealt with.

Drainage.—There are seven Special Drainage Districts in the County, namely—Fordyce, Gardenstown, Tomintoul, Portgordon, Whitehills, Cornhill, and Milltown, Rothiemay.

Fordyce as mentioned in previous reports, cannot be said to have a modern system of sewers. In order to improve matters, gully traps were constructed throughout the village in 1932, and since their introduction no complaints have been received.

In Whitehills there is a modern system of sewers. Two sections, namely : the main sewer at the west end of the village and the branch sewer in Loch Lane, require considerable attention, due to the very flat gradient. These sections have been periodically scoured to prevent clogages. As mentioned in previous reports there are still a number of dwelling-houses the drainage of which is not connected to the Public

Sewer but discharge into the old stone drains in the village; also there are 19 dwelling-houses with no means of drainage. Up to the present there are 20 private drains not connected to the sewer.

Gardenstown has a modern system of sewers with the exception of a stretch along the sea front. The Banff District Council decided to construct a sewer along the area, which will allow for the introduction of W.Cs. in this area. The work is meantime in the hands of the County Architect. Two public conveniences were erected in this village during the year.

Milltown, Rothiemay, was formed into a Special Drainage District in 1935. No works have yet been carried out, but now that negotiations between the Keith District Council and the Superior regarding the augmentation of the water supply are practically completed the works will be carried out at an early date.

Portgordon and Tomintoul have each a modern system of sewers and each have been maintained in good order during the year.

As mentioned in previous Annual Reports the drainage of Newmill is unsatisfactory. A public meeting was held in Newmill on 24th November when the question of forming the village into a Special Drainage District was fully discussed between the ratepayers and the representatives of the County and District Committees and the officials. The meeting decided against forming the village into a Special Drainage District. This is very unfortunate as the conditions in Newmill are far from satisfactory. I would suggest that the Local Authority exercise their powers under Section 122 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, to form the village into a Special Drainage District and have a modern system of sewers laid down.

In the village of Sandend, with a total of 68 inhabited dwelling-houses and a population of 289, the drainage is unsatisfactory. Several open concrete channels were constructed many years ago to convey the waste water from the various dwelling-houses to the foreshore. Objectionable odours are felt from these channels, particularly during the summer months. The water supply also leaves much to be desired, the inhabitants getting their supply from 4 wells situated at various parts of the village, some of which go dry during the late summer. There is a desire by a number of residents to introduce water supplies and modern sanitary conveniences into their houses, but the present water supply precludes such introduction. As mentioned in the

Scavenging report, nuisances arise from the depositing of the contents of privy pails along the foreshore, which would be eliminated if a modern system of sewers were laid down. Further there is considerable overcrowding in this village, but the want of a proper water supply and drainage system has held up building operations in the village. The question of forming the village into a Special Water and Drainage District and the introduction of a sufficient gravitation water supply and a modern system of sewers should be considered.

Seven defective private drains were dealt with during the year.

The Department of Health request the Sanitary Inspector to incorporate in his report the following:—

Distriet.	W.Cs. erected in 1936.	Common W.Cs. in use for two or more tenants.	Number of houses without a water supply and sink inside the house.	Privies.	Ashpits.
Cornhill	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	20	23 for 1 tenant 3 for 2 tenants	22 for 1 tenant 3 for 2 tenants 2 for 3 tenants
Crovie	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	67	28 for 1 tenant 3 for 2 tenants	
Gardenstown	5	6 for 2 tenants	78	44 for 1 tenant	6 Public receptacles
Fordyce	4	1	44	29 for 1 tenant 7 for 2 tenants	42 for 1 tenant 8 for 2 tenants
Newmill	4	<i>Nil</i>	98	84 for 1 tenant 19 for 2 tenants 2 for 3 tenants	38 for 1 tenant 11 for 2 tenants 9 for 3 tenants 3 for 4 tenants
Portgordon	4	14 for 2 do. 1 for 3 do. 1 for 4 do.	93	84 for 1 tenant 11 for 2 tenants	Public receptacle
Sanden 1	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	70	38 for 1 tenant	<i>Nil</i>
Tomintoul	2	<i>Nil</i>	57	55 for 1 tenant 5 for 2 tenants	40 for 1 tenant 7 for 2 tenants
Whitehills	4	1 for 2 do.	113	21 for 1 tenant 2 for 2 tenants	<i>Nil</i>

Scavenging.—The Special Scavenging Districts are Gardenstown, Fordyce, Whitehills, Sandend, Portgordon, and Newmill. With the exception of Fordyce and Newmill the scavenging was carried out by contractors, who have each carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner.

At Gardenstown six concrete receptacles are situated at convenient centres in which the householders deposit their refuse. These receptacles are emptied by the contractor bi-weekly or at more frequent periods as required, the refuse being tipped into the sea from a specially constructed platform.

This arrangement is satisfactory as regards the higher part of the village, but there is an area along the sea front where there is no access for a horse and cart to dwelling-houses and the householders dump their refuse over the sea wall which at parts is 12 ft. high. The tide at times does not reach the bottom of the sea wall, consequently these accumulations of refuse are very unsightly.

The Banff District Council are meantime considering the erection of two receptacles in this area.

At Sandend, the refuse is collected every alternate day, the ashbin system being now in operation. In past years the refuse was tipped on to the foreshore, which was unsatisfactory. A site was obtained from the superiors and this has now been enclosed by railway sleeper walls. This depot is well removed from dwelling-houses.

Notwithstanding this arrangement complaints have been lodged regarding the dumping of refuse on to the foreshore, and particularly the emptying of privy pails. Warning letters were sent to practically every householder in this village regarding this practice and requesting that these receptacles be emptied directly into the sea.

At Whitehills the refuse is removed every alternate day by a contractor who is also responsible for the cleansing of the streets and the emptying of street gully traps. The refuse from the village is dumped into the sea well removed from the village. Warnings have again been given to householders, particularly those near the sea front, against the depositing of refuse on to the foreshore.

At Portgordon, the scavenger collects the refuse from the dwelling-houses at the lower part of the village and deposits same into a refuse depot adjoining the beach. The contractor removes this refuse weekly and it is deposited into the sea below high-water mark. The refuse at the higher part of the village was previously collected by the scavenger and deposited into a depot adjoining the school playground. This has been discontinued, the refuse now being collected

by the contractor and either deposited into the depot at the beach or directly into the sea according to the state of the tide. The depot near the playground has been demolished. Complaints have been made regarding the disposal of the refuse into the sea, but the Buckie District Council have been unsuccessful with the Superiors in obtaining an inland refuse dump. In order to keep the foreshore from becoming unsightly the scavenger regularly collects all tins and light refuse washed up by the tide.

At Fordyce and Newmill, private ashpits are in use, the householders being responsible for the emptying of the same. Part-time scavengers are employed in these two districts for street cleansing.

In regard to the village of Tomintoul the Dufftown District Council continue their annual grant of £12 10s in order to maintain a certain measure of cleansing in the village.

Inspections were made of the privies, ashpits, etc., in all the populous areas of the County and 14 intimations were served on tenants regarding foul accumulations and dirty privies.

Workshops.—There are 118 Workshops within the County comprising bakers, 12; net barking, 1; blacksmiths, 34; boatbuilder, 1; carpenters, 23; coopers, 2; cycle repairers, 2; fishcurers, 6; millwright, 1; motor repairer, 1; shoemakers, 16; saddler, 1; tailors, 17; watchmaker, 1.

59 inspections were made during the year, and three notices were served regarding dirty premises, and one for a defective window.

Nuisances.—24 complaints were received from the various parts of the County during the year. The nature of the defects were defective water supplies, choked drains, dirty houses, defective housing conditions, accumulation of refuse and smoke nuisance. Each complaint was duly investigated and, where necessary, steps were taken to remedy the cause for complaint.

Slaughter-Houses. — There are four private slaughter-houses in the landward district of the County. Renewal of licences were granted to Mr Wm. Robertson, March Street, Portgordon; Mr Wm. Roger, Marypark, Inveravon; Mr Wm. Stephen, Croftbain, Glenlivet, and Mr Wm. R. Kelman, 33 Main Street, Tomintoul.

These premises were regularly inspected and found to be kept in good order. The County Sanitary Inspector, as Detention Officer, made 104 inspections during the year, and the Sanitary Inspector for the Burgh of Buckie made 64 inspections at the slaughter-house at Portgordon. No carcases were detained for inspection by the Meat Inspector. There are also 10 fleshers' shops in the landward district of the County. These premises were also inspected and found satisfactory.

The Burgh Sanitary Inspectors act as Detention Officers in the various Burghs, and the number of visits of inspection, detentions and seizures are shown in the following table :—

Burgh.	Number of visits of Inspection	Carcases or portion of carcases detained for inspection by Meat Inspector.	Carcases or portion of carcases found diseased and surrendered to the Detention officer by the owner.
Aberchirder	The County Veterinary Officer acts..		
Aberlour	68	2	—
Banff	309	11	11
Buckie	313	—	146
Cullen	332	43	43
Dufftown	119	3	3
Keith	992	30	82
Macduff	146	3	3
Portsoy	222	1	1

There are no Slaughter-houses in the Burghs of Findochty and Portknockie. A tabular statement of the number of animals slaughtered and carcases condemned, see Report by Veterinary Inspector.

Offensive Trades.—Renewal of licences were granted to Mr Jas. Christie, Muirfield, Fordyce, for a knackery at Muirfield, Fordyce; and Mr Isaac Sharpe, Inglewood, Keith, for a knackery at Douglasbrac, Keith. These premises were regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Schools.—The majority of the sanitary conveniences at the various schools within the County were inspected during the year and found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

During the year the following improvements were carried out :—

Tarrycroys P. School—

Introduction of water carrying system of latrines.

Enzie P. School—

Introduction of water carrying system of latrines.

Clenterty P. School—

Introduction of water carrying system of latrines.

Culvie P. School—

1. Introduction of water carrying system of latrines.
2. New water supply.

Rat and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. — Two “Rat Weeks” were held during the year, one in April and another in November. The supply of “Red Squill” was given to persons making application for same at the various Police Stations throughout the County free of charge during the campaign held in April. It was decided to charge the actual cost of the poison during the November campaign. The result of these campaigns was that 24 gallons were distributed to 318 applicants in April when the poison was distributed free and only 5½ gallons to 101 applicants in November when a charge was made. The Public Health Committee have agreed to again supply the poison free of charge at the next campaign.

Common Lodging-Houses.—There are no common lodging-houses in the County.

Burial Grounds.—The majority of the burial grounds within the County were inspected during the year and found to be kept in good order. As mentioned in previous annual reports the need for a new burial ground for the Parish of Boyndie is very urgent. Various sites have been examined, viz., a field south of the Church of Boyndie, a field at Ladybrac, a field on the farm of Kirkton, and a field on the farm of Auds, Boyndie. The most suitable site as regards the sub-soil was the field south of the Church of Boyndie, but it was considered to be too far distant from the village of Whitehills. Representation is being made to the tenant of the field to the north of the present burial ground for permission to dig trial pits, but up to the present the tenant has not given his consent. It is to be hoped that a site be definitely fixed at an early date as year after year conditions are getting more serious.

There were no interments carried out during the year under Section 69 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

Dairies.—On the 1st January 1936 there were 93 persons on the Register for the sale of milk in the landward district of the County. During the year 6 persons were added to the Register and 10 persons were voluntarily removed from the Register. The total number of registered dairymen in the landward district at 31st December was 89. Of these 79 are retail dairymen, 7 wholesale dairymen, and 3 persons resident outwith the County are registered as purveyors of milk within the County. During the year one dairyman was licensed under the Milk Special Designations Order for the sale of "Certified Milk."

205 inspections were made by the County Sanitary Inspector at the premises of these registered dairymen during the year, and as the result of these inspections 36 notices were served, namely, dirty walls and ceilings of cowsheds and milk stores, 15; dirty cows, 1; dirty floors, 3; dirty milk cart, 1; overalls not being used by milkers, 2; wash-house for the washing of milk vessels being used for domestic washing, 2; surfaces of courtyards defective, 3; provision of wash-house for the washing of milk vessels, 1; provision of sink in a retail dairy shop, 1; cows kept in unregistered premises, 2; minor repairs, 7.

By arrangement between the County Council and the Town Councils of the Burghs of Buckie and Keith, the Sanitary Inspectors of these Burghs carry out the duties under the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act 1914 in the landward district of the parishes of Rathven, Grange, Keith, Boharm and Botriphnie.

In the Rathven area the Buckie Sanitary Inspector made 48 inspections and 8 notices were served. In the Keith area the Keith Sanitary Inspector made 31 inspections and 8 notices were served regarding the dirty condition of cows, premises and minor defects.

A steady improvement was seen regarding the cleanliness of cows and premises generally, also it was found that greater care is being taken by dairymen in the methods of milking and handling of milk.

There were 1082 persons on the Register at 31st December for the sale of butter and cheese. 195 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector at these premises and 12 notices were served regarding the dirty condition of the premises and 31 notices regarding the dirty condition of cows. At a subsequent inspection considerable improvement was found.

The production of butter and cheese at these registered premises is principally during the summer months, and only a very few sell butter to the public during the winter months. Consequently the Sanitary Inspector confines his inspections during the period when butter and cheese is sold to the public.

Dairy Premises in Burghs.—The following table shows inspections, etc., carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in their respective Burghs—

Burgh.	Number of Persons on Register.	Inspections.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.
Aberchirder	6	30	6	6
Aberlour	—	—	—	—
Banff	7	28	4	4
Buckie	1	5	—	—
Cullen	3	9	1	1
Dufftown	9	21	—	—
Findochty	2	7	—	—
Keith	13	29	8	8
Macduff	10	38	—	—
Portknockie	1	2	—	—
Portsoy	4	56	1	1

The number of registered dairies in the Burghs at 1st January 1936 was 60. During the year 4 dairymen gave up business, 2 in Keith, 1 in Dufftown, and 1 in Portsoy.

The total number of registered dairies in the various Burghs is now 56.

ALEX. G. G. JOHNSTON, *Sanitary Inspector.*

APPENDIX I.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND), 1928.

1. Number of dwelling-houses inspected:—

(a) During the year,	-	-	-	-	48
(b) Since 1st January 1931,	-	-	-	-	412

2. Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in any respect unfit for human habitation:—

(a) During the year,	-	-	-	-	28
(b) Since 1st January 1931,	-	-	-	-	192

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1925.

3. Number of houses in respect of which intimations were given during year under Section 20 (1) requiring provision of a sufficient water-closet, - 2
4. Number of houses where requirements were complied with by owners during year:—
- (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - 1
 - (ii) Without such assistance, - - 1
5. Number of houses where works were carried out by County Council during year after failure of owners to do so, - - - - - ...
6. Number of houses for which water-closets were provided during year at instance of County Council without formal intimation under Section 20 (1):—
- (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - 4
 - (ii) Without such assistance, - - - ...
7. Number of houses of (a) one apartment, and (b) two apartments, for the erection of which the consent of County Council was given during the year in terms of Section One Hundred and Eleven, - (a) ... (b) ...

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1919.

-
8. Number of houses in respect of which notice was given during year under Section 40 (1) requiring provision of a water supply (a) inside the house, and (b) outside the house, - - -
- (a) ...
(b) ...
9. Number of houses where requirements were complied with by owners during year :—
- (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - ...
- (ii) Without such assistance, - - - ...
10. Number of houses where works were carried out by County Council during year after failure of owners to do so, - - - ...
11. Number of houses where water supply was provided during year at the instance of County Council without formal notice under Section 40 (1), - ...
- (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - 14
- (ii) Without such assistance, - - - ...

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1930.

-
12. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served during year under Section 14 (1), - - - ...
13. Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation during year following on notices under Section 14 (1):—
- (a) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - - - ...
- (b) Without such assistance, - - - ...
14. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which work has been done during year by County Council under Section 15 (1), - - - ...
15. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which in terms of Section 17 a demolition order or closing order under Section 16 (3) has been substituted during year for a notice under Section 14 (1), - ...
16. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served during year in terms of Section 16 (1), - - - 32

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1930.

-
17. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which, following on notice under Section 16 (1) :—
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Undertaking has been given during year that house will not be used for human habitation until it has been rendered so fit, | 9 |
| (b) Undertaking has been given during year that house will be rendered fit, - - | ... |
| (c) Demolition orders have been made during year under Section 16 (3), - - | 23 |
| (d) Closing orders have been made during year under Section 16 (3) and (4), - - | ... |
18. Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit during year following on undertakings under Section 16 (2) :—
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - | .. |
| (ii) Without such assistance, - - | ... |
19. Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation during year at instance of County Council without formal notice under Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930 :—
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) With assistance under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, - | 11 |
| (ii) Without such assistance, - - | ... |
20. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders have, in terms of Section 16 (3), been determined by County Council during year following upon houses having been rendered fit for human habitation, - - - -
21. Number of houses in respect of which advances have been made during year in terms of Section 34 towards cost of repairs and amount so advanced, -

COUNTY OF BANFF.

REPORT BY THE COUNTY VETERINARY OFFICER

For the Year 1936.

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914.

1. CONDITION AND CLEANLINESS OF CATTLE—

The condition of cattle in dairy premises is good. One or two cases have occurred where the feeding was apparently deficient in quantity and the animals lost condition. This occurs usually immediately before the herds are put out to grass and the winter feed nearly exhausted.

On the whole the herds are well fed and cared for and the majority are in excellent condition. More dairymen are rationing their cows and express themselves satisfied with the result. As this practice increases so will the industry increase in prosperity.

The modern dairy cow is a pathological animal, certainly so far as milk production is concerned, and its needs are greater than the ordinary farm cows and haphazard feeding is not an economic proposition.

Water bowls are becoming more and more common with satisfactory results.

With regard to cleanliness of herds, this, on the whole, is satisfactory, but there are still a number of herds where the condition is far from satisfactory, the grooming and cleaning being done in a lazy way and shows no pride in keeping a food product clean. This fact acts as a deterrent to others who see the less careful and clean dairyman getting the same for his product as the man who does his utmost to produce a clean, wholesome article.

The presence of exempted premises also has an effect on these dairymen as well as the presence of premises where milk is sold in small quantities by farmers and others to their neighbours.

(a) Nature of fodder and diet as affecting quality of milk.

A few cases of poor milk directly due to faulty feeding have come to the writer's notice. Feeding of a more balanced ration with concentrates have improved the quality.

As previously reported, some dairymen keep a cow of, for example, the Jersey breed to increase the butter fat content of the milk of the herd, and to balance a possible deficiency.

(b) Number of diseased cows found, specifying diseases.

Full records have only been kept, so far as possible of new cases of disease in dairy herds, long standing atrophy and induration already noted and reported, for example, were ignored.

Contagious abortion is rampant in this County and as well as causing several cases of Undulant Fever in the human, is causing a very grave loss to the farming and dairying industries.

Much of this can be traced to the farmers or dairymen themselves. A farmer finds his cows are not "settling to the bull," sends them to his neighbour's bull for service without explaining the circumstances (which is quite illegal), and the second farmer soon finds his herd aborting or apparently sterile and very often sends his cows to another neighbour, and so the cycle goes on.

Some of the farms in the upper part of the County are badly affected.

Diseases found :—

Mastitis	25
Induration	9
Atrophy	10
Cowpox	14
Septic Teats	7
Retained placenta	1
Tuberculosis	21
	—
	87
	—

(c) Disposal of milk from diseased cows.

In most cases where milk is withheld from human consumption, the milk is thrown away, and in a few cases the owners boiled the milk before feeding it to pigs or calves. The practice of feeding such milk unboiled to pigs or putting calves to suckle cannot be too strongly condemned. It is regrettable to find on examination of a herd an owner, in other respects a good animal husbandryman, feeding his stock of the future on very questionable milk. In many cases this is done without thinking. It is a long established practice, but the obvious fact that, if the milk is unsound, from invasion of the udder by whatever pathogenic organism it might be, whether tubercular or not, it is unsound for human and animal alike is avoided. The same owner would think twice of suckling or feeding his stock on the same milk

from a neighbour's cow, because he is willing to accept disease in other stock but subconsciously cannot bring himself to believe that his own might likewise be dangerously diseased. It is thought that this practice is gradually falling out of favour. Its unsoundness is being constantly brought before those found practising it, and no difficulty has been experienced of stopping it when found.

From the tuberculin records kept during the year, the fact emerges that in a large number of cases the original infection was in the abdominal cavity, the mesenteric glands, showing what appear to be the oldest lesions. This points indubitably to infection from milk while calves. In other words, the suckling stage appears to be, in a large percentage of cases, the stage of life where infection is commonly got. There is little doubt that a goodly number of these cases of tuberculosis need not arise if calves were not put to suckle cows with disease of the udder.

(2) INSPECTION OF CATTLE.—Stating number of cows in registered and exempted premises, number of cows inspected, and annual frequency of inspection.

The number of inspections of dairy premises totalled 420 with some further visits for specific purposes.

There were 145 dairies in the County, comprising, 89 in the landward area and 56 in the Burghs. During the year, 6 dairies were added to the Register, and 10 removed.

There are 11 exempted premises.

The number of cows in registered premises is 1682, and in exempted premises there are 30 cows. The annual frequency of inspection was 3 visits per annum.

The number of premises registered for the sale of butter and cheese was 1082, the same as in 1935.

	Average No. of Cows.	No. of Cows Inspected.	Annual Frequency of Inspection.
Registered Dairies	1682	4133	3
Exempted Premises ...	30	60	2

(3) BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis in herds remains a very grave problem. No doubt stock-owners are more alive to its dangers than before and many of them lose no time in reporting any animal suspected of suffering from this disease. At the same time some still retain a cow and milk it right up to detection, knowing quite well that the animal is a menace to public health, to themselves and the remainder of their herd. These

fortunately are not numerous. The main difficulty is the poor supply of tuberculin-tested animals in the marts and the fact that their herds may be grossly infected and the introduction of tuberculin-tested replacements of little use, and few of them can afford the preliminary tests necessary to ascertain the extent of infection and the progress of efforts at elimination of reactors. Another great obstacle is the public apathy to their milk supply. They apparently do not care whether their milk is clean and safe or not, so long as it is "milk" and a reasonable price. They do not realise that in many cases they may be buying active virulent disease mixed in a benign-looking mixture of milk.

The dairymen themselves do realise it, but to get and maintain a clean herd costs money; this means an increase in the price of the product, and they feel any increase in price will drive their customers to someone else. The dairymen undoubtedly would prefer tubercle-free herds but are afraid of not being able to sell the product after they have gone to considerable expense.

The remedy lies very largely in the hands of the consumer. If the consumer would awaken to the hidden danger of ordinary raw milk and demand clean milk from healthy cows, I am certain that demand would be met by dairymen.

The "Attested Herd" Scheme, were it to be introduced into this county, would also have a great stimulating action on the dairymen, since by this scheme financial assistance would be given to help clear the herds.

There are 5 tuberculin-tested herds in the county and a large number of herds have recently introduced tuberculin-tested animals as replacements when obtainable.

Milk from tested cows is sold in Keith from Aberdeen-shire.

(a) Number of cows found tuberculous on clinical examination of herds.

Twenty-one cows were found tubercular on clinical examination. Of these 4 suffered from tuberculosis of the udder. In addition 45 animals were removed from butter and cheese premises.

(b) Number of cows found tuberculous after tuberculin test.

No clinical cases of Tuberculosis were confirmed by test. A large number of cows were tested in a survey in dairies, 40% reacted, the average age of reactors was 6 years.

- (c) **Total number of cows to which the tuberculin test was applied under Section 22 of the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914.**

None.

- (d) **Number of dairies holding graded milk licences in respect of tubercle-free herds.**

One dairy was licensed as a graded (certified) herd during the year.

- (e) **Number of other dairies known to have tubercle-free herds.**

Six dairies, including the Mental Hospital, have tubercle-free herds.

The average number of cows is 90 and the estimated milk production is approximately 67,000 gallons per annum.

One dairy in Aberdeenshire supplies milk from tested cows to Keith and one other certified dairy in the same county supplies certified milk to Banff and Macduff.

- (4a) **Dairies holding licences for the production of Grade A Milk.**

There are no Grade A dairies in the County.

- (4b) **Samples taken for examination in terms of Section 21 of the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914.**

Milk samples were taken regularly during the year for examination for tubercle or brucella abortus, or bacteria present. A large number of individual samples were taken in tuberculosis survey and bulked systematically for economy in animal inoculation. The details of the samples taken are as follows :—

For tuberculosis	45
For abortus infection	16
For bacteria present	15
Sputum	3
	—
Total	79

As a result of these examinations 4 cows were found to be excreting tubercle bacilli or clinical diagnosis confirmed.

- (4c) **A statement of the extent to which 13 and 14 of the Act are being complied with.**

The dairymen comply to a certain extent with Section 13 (which states that it shall be an offence to sell milk from a cow suffering from any disease liable to infect or contaminate

it). A cow suffering from acute mastitis for example is usually milked from the apparently sound quarters and that from the bad quarter withheld. This of course is condemned whenever it is detected, and it is pointed out that such a case should be isolated and none of the milk used.

Section 14 (which lays down that such a case must be reported) is generally ignored. The importance of this section is indicated to the dairymen whenever the occasion demands. In some cases a report is made when about to inspect the herd. This is a most important Section, and it is felt that its fulfilment would reduce the incidence of human disease, e.g. sore throats, if it were complied with.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND), 1932.

A very good class of animal is slaughtered in the County for the meat trade. Any animal of inferior quality found on meat inspection is invariably an emergency or private case slaughtered for a farmer.

There are still 12 private slaughter-houses situated in the County, widely scattered from Portgordon to Tomintoul, viz. Keith (4), Aberlour (2), Portsoy (2), Portgordon (1), Marypark (1), Tomintoul (1), Glenlivet (1).

This dispersion makes the question of regular meat inspection a difficult one, but since last report the days and hours of killing have been laid down in those under the County Council, which has regularised matters somewhat. The detention officers carry out their duties in a conscientious way and the butchers co-operate well.

In no case had a magistrate to be petitioned before seizure of meat.

The question of erecting a public abattoir in Keith was under consideration during the year but nothing definite has yet been arranged.

The slaughtering in Keith incidentally has fallen off considerably, viz. 1869 cattle as against 2375 in 1935 and 4874 sheep as against 9158 in 1935, a drop of nearly 50 per cent.

The slaughterings in Keith for the years 1933 to 1936 show a considerable decline, viz. :—

	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>
1933	2199	14,906
1934	2356	11,449
1935	2374	9158
1936	1860	4874

The following table shows the slaughterings and condemnations for the year 1936 :—

SLAUGHTER HOUSE	CATTLE.				SHEEP.				PIGS.				GOATS.	
	Number Slaughtered.	Number Wholly Condemned.	Number Partially Condemned.	Weight of Condemned Meat. (lbs.)	Number Slaughtered.	Number Wholly Condemned.	Number Partially Condemned.	Weight of Condemned Meat. (lbs.)	Number Slaughtered.	Number Wholly Condemned.	Number Partially Condemned.	Weight of Condemned Meat. (lbs.)	Number Slaughtered.	Number
Aberchirder ...	231	1	3	1219	44	—	3	95	9	—	1	85	—	—
Aberlour ...	327	1	1	580	264	—	—	—	64	—	—	—	—	—
Banff ...	874	2	4	2,538	532	2	—	120	53	2	—	150	—	—
Buckie ...	1005	11	131	11,022½	579	—	2	15	16	—	2	6	—	—
Cullen ...	996	7	32	5,717	357	2	1	1120	21	—	1	5	—	—
Dufftown ...	137	1	1	860	127	—	1	10	9	—	—	—	—	—
Keith ...	1869	16	48	11,382	4,847	4	42	368	44	—	—	—	—	—
Landward Part of County ...	221	1	2	964	69	—	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	—
Macduff ...	559	2	1	1712	86	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Portsoy ...	144	—	1	336	126	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS (1936)	6363	42	224	36,330½	7,058	8	49	1728	302	2	4	246	—	—
TOTALS (1935)	6529	41	200	32,851	11,387	13	89	1,033	420	4	4	581	—	—
TOTALS (1934)	7100	35	395	34,583	14,490	17	201	1,478	520	3	4	462	—	—
TOTALS (1933)	6940	39	375	34,711	17,609	6	175	1,228	509	2	2	352	—	—
TOTALS (1932)	6665	31	288	30,396	26,817	22	159	1,267	595	4	2	576	—	—
TOTALS (1931)	7314	55	373	48,434	16,727	15	36	998	555	3	17	513	—	—
TOTALS (1930)	7632	36	55	28,487	13,357	15	1	897	307	1	—	128	—	—

The Veterinary Officer made 586 visits of inspection to slaughter-houses.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

The number of suspected outbreaks of notifiable disease reported during the year showed a considerable increase compared with 1935.

No outbreaks of Foot and Mouth, Sheepscab, or Parasitic Mange were reported. The last outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in 1924, of Mange in 1932, and Sheepscab in 1929. The last confirmed outbreak of Swine Fever was in 1932.

Anthrax.

This disease is still appearing, two outbreaks occurring in the period under review compared with 5 in 1935 and 3 in 1934. 108 suspected outbreaks were reported, only 2 of which were diagnosed as Anthrax. Both were confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture. In connection with this disease it was noted that in both instances the animals dying of anthrax showed symptoms of illness for varying lengths of time, usually about a day. This does not agree with the popular idea of a sudden death without preliminary symptoms. In both cases artificial feeding stuffs or fertilisers were used on the farm which points to infection from those sources. As most of these are imported from tropical countries it is obvious that contamination with anthrax infection takes place abroad.

Swine Fever.

No outbreak.

Sheep Scab.

No outbreak.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

One suspected outbreak, not confirmed.

Parasitic Mange.

No outbreak.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

Bovine tuberculosis continues to be a subject of ever increasing importance in an agricultural county such as Banff, interested as it is in animal industry. This disease takes a greater toll of animal life in this county than any other single disease. It is an accepted fact that some 40 per cent. of dairy cows are affected with this disease, and is therefore also of great importance from a Public Health point of view in a milk drinking community such as the large agricultural community of this county.

Two great problems of the present day are nutrition and tuberculosis. Both are closely associated. The more

disease in dairy herds the more expense there is in milk production, the more costly the milk as well as being the more tubercular infected. The price of milk controls the amount consumed. If the milk is expensive the less of it can the ordinary person afford to drink, and the result is malnutrition. If, in addition, the milk is infected with tuberculosis the badly nourished child provides a fertile field for the development of the disease. The greater the control of bovine tuberculosis, the less loss there is to the farmer's pocket. The less the cost of milk, the less bovine tuberculosis in children and the less malnutrition. Any policy for control and eradication must be a long range one. The tuberculin testing and slaughtering of all tubercular bovines is financially impossible. The slaughter would leave the community short of milk and short of meat, and deplete the breeding herds to a serious extent. On the other hand there is a tendency for stock owners to hold on to a tubercular beast too long before reporting; the result is other stock have meantime become infected and the tubercular beast has lost condition to such an extent as to make it valueless for compensation purposes, and they then complain that it is not worth while to report cases as the compensation they receive is too low. From records kept of the cases occurring in this county, it would appear that more than 50 % of these cases were affected with the disease as calves, i.e., the original lesions occur in the mesenteric (abdominal) lymph glands, pointing to infection from milk in their calf days. This raises again the question of the fallacy, the suicide it might be called, of putting calves to suckle a cow with tuberculosis of the udder. This practice raises the calves but sooner or later these calves succumb to the disease, but generally not before they have infected others and possibly humans. This practice is the cause of more than half the tuberculosis of cattle in this county, and therefore more than half the human tuberculosis of bovine origin. No stockowner should be so contended to "economise" (and a very false economy it is) by breeding his future stock on such a dangerous beast, but rather to cut his losses there and then, report the beast while presumably she is yet in fair condition for compensation purposes, and prevent the spread of infection to his breeding stock of to-morrow. He should look five years ahead and not attempt to save what cannot be saved. A cow with tuberculosis of the udder, in nine cases out of ten, an advanced case, is in short a dying case of tuberculosis.

At the same time a gratifying increase in the number of cases reported during 1936 indicates that the stock breeder is far more interested in the question than before, and is reporting much more readily and quickly than before. One

might be content with results as they are, but when it is considered that the numbers even now reported cannot represent much more than half the actual number occurring, it can be seen that much more has yet to be accomplished before the stage of contentment is reached.

The matter lies largely in the hands of those who suffer most themselves—the farmers. Some are apparently ashamed (or something akin to that) to have a tuberculosis case to bring to the notice of the authorities, and dispose of the beast privately. This may dispose of the beast, but the bigger question of stopping the further spread of the disease goes begging. Co-operation between the Veterinary Surgeons, the stockowners, and the county authority would undoubtedly go far—very far—in the control and partial eradication of this disease with the existing legislation. The responsibility is shared by all three and nothing should be left undone that can be done to stop this serious loss of animal life with its enormous financial loss, with the welcome consequence of directly reducing the mortality in young children and rectifying malnutrition. It is a big task and a long one, but is far from being an impossible one.

During the year 130 cases of suspected tuberculosis were dealt with compared with 109 in 1935, 14 of which were not amenable to the Order, and 3 died before preliminary enquiry. Of the remaining 113, the following tables show the incidence of the groups of tuberculosis as defined under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, and the associated results of the post mortem examination :—

Type of Disease.

Type of Animal	Udder or Milk.	Emaciation.	Pulmonary.	Totals.
Cow in Milk	15	17	21	53
Other Cow or Heifer	2	20	12	34
Other Bovine Animal	—	16	10	26
Totals	17	53	43	113

Class of Animal.

Stage of Disease.	Cow in Milk.	Other Cow or Heifer.	Other Bovine Animal.	Totals.
Advanced	35	16	5	56
Not Advanced	18	18	21	57
Totals	53	34	26	113

Type of Disease.

Stage of Disease.	Udder or Milk.	Emaciation.	Pulmonary.	Totals.
Advanced	13	23	20	56
Not Advanced	4	30	23	57
Totals	17	53	43	113

MARKETS.

The Markets were visited regularly throughout the year, and action taken where necessary. Alterations were made at one market it is understood partly as a result of representation made to the directors. The question of using disinfectants in one other was drawn to the attention of the management. Disinfection of the marts and floats is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Two cows and one other animal were found to be suffering from tuberculosis on markets inspection, and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

Table showing the incidence of notifiable diseases in the County since 1925—

DISEASE—	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925
Tuberculosis	{ 113	99	48	47	71	89	86	102	89	76	57	17
	{ (17)	(22)	(11)	(8)	(6)	(12)	(2)	(4)	(4)	(1)	(11)	(2)
Anthrax	2	5	3	—	2	—	3	7	3	5	6	10
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep Scab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	3	4	4
Foot-and-Mouth..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Mange...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

The figures in brackets after the numbers of cases of tuberculosis indicate the number of cases of tuberculosis of the udder.

LABORATORY AND OTHER EXAMINATIONS.

	Microscopic Examinations.	Animal Inoculations.
Tuberculosis (Milk)	45	45
Sputum	3	3
Tuberculosis Specimens	1	—
Anthrax	108	2
Contagious Abortion (Undulant Fever)	—	16
Bacterial Counts or Examinations	15	—
Contagious Abortion Tests	—	75
Tuberculin Tests	—	321
Totals	182	489

LADYSBRIDGE MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Veterinary attendance at Ladysbridge has not been frequently required. Several visits were made on account of illness in the stock, but for the most part the visits were for the purpose of Tuberculin testing the herd or attending meetings of the Farm Committee.

WILLIAM M. M'KAY,
County Veterinary Officer.

Banff, April 1937

